

2008

School of Renewable Natural Resources Newsletter, Fall 2008

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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School of Renewable Natural Resources

Fall 2008

Managing resources and protecting the environment . . . making a difference in the 21st century



Director's Comments

It doesn't seem possible, but it's been over a year since I became the School's director. I guess it's true that time flies when you're having fun! During this time, I have had the privilege of meeting many alums and supporters of the School, and I look forward to meeting many more in the years to come. Even though I've been part of the School for more than 20 years, as director I have discovered we have a talented and productive faculty, a great group of research associates, a supportive staff and a terrific group of graduate and undergraduate students. Even with the considerable talents and abilities of these groups, we still have room for improvement. We can be better in all areas and will continue to work toward that goal.

To that end, in June we underwent a USDA-CS-REES review of our research and extension programs and have used the results of this review as a springboard for thinking about the strengths and weaknesses of all aspects of the School. To further this examination we have begun updating our strategic plan in an effort to build on our strengths, improve our weaknesses and outline a course for the future.

We know that the citizens of Louisiana and the nation will continue to be confronted with challenges for dealing with environmental management concerns. These issues include the sustainability of coastal and upland forests, wetland restoration, depletion of fisher-



ies and wildlife resources and other local and national resource topics (global warming, biofuels, etc.). Dealing with environmental and natural resource problems requires urgent attention of scientists and land managers who appreciate the complexity and interdependence of natural ecosystems and human populations. Traditional approaches may be inadequate to address some of these complex problems. We as a School envision that our role is to develop creative and novel solutions to these problems, which we believe requires an understanding of the complexity of natural systems. Because of this, the School will continue to offer a broad-based natural resource curriculum and will embrace a wide range of applied and basic research topics, with a strong commitment to extension.

As part of developing, refining and implementing our vision for the future, we will need support from the School's alumni and friends. Support of the School comes in many forms other than gifts and contributions and includes keeping us aware of emerging research problems and sources of research funding, constructive criticism of our teaching, research and extension programs, available service opportunities, undergraduate and graduate student recruiting and general promotion of the School around the state. We welcome any and all inquiries about anything going on in the School, and encourage you to contact or visit us whenever you can. We would love to be able to contact each of you by email and encourage you to provide us with your email address. We want you to feel like you are part of the School, and, to that end, I look forward to visiting with each and every one of you in the coming year.

Allen Rutherford

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ON THE COVER:

Spring camp students Randy Graves (L) and Kevin Borne collect regeneration data at Lee Memorial Forest.

Ph.D. Program Ranked in Top 10

In 2006 and 2007, the wildlife science program at LSU was ranked in the top 10 in the nation in faculty productivity by Academic Analytics (www.academicanalytics.com). Academic Analytics claim their Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index (FSP Index) is a method for evaluating doctoral programs at research universities (across all Carnegie research classifications). The FSP is based on publications (books and journal articles), citations of journal publications, federal research funding and awards and honors. The basis for this ranking is not transparent because Academic Analytics claims that the School of Renewable Natural Resources (SRNR) has 28 wildlife and fisheries faculty whereas SRNR has only seven wildlife faculty, three fisheries faculty and five aquaculture faculty. Apparently, the difference was made up by forestry faculty, who therefore deserve credit as well. SRNR has about 70 graduate students with slightly more than half enrolled in M.S. programs and the rest in Ph.D. programs.

Research Notes

The Dynamic Atchafalaya – A Complex System

The Atchafalaya River originates in central Louisiana where all that flows from the Red River combines with almost 30% of the flow of the Mississippi River. The Atchafalaya River stretches only 220 km from its origin to its mouth, yet only four rivers discharge more water to North America's coast. Without human intervention in the 1950s, the Atchafalaya River would have captured a majority of the discharge of the Mississippi River. Since the 1970s, the Atchafalaya River has created more than 65 km² of emergent wetlands in a delta that continues to grow. Furthermore, water and sediment from the Atchafalaya River affect geomorphologic, biological and ecological processes across thousands of square miles of south central Louisiana in the floodway, delta, coastal marshes and coastal waters. Along its length, the river influences millions of hectares of wetland forests and coastal marshes that yield tremendous benefits in the form of oil and gas resources, timber, commercial and recreational fishing, hunting and non-consumptive wildlife use and regional navigation. The Atchafalaya River Basin is managed partly for navigation but primarily as a floodway that receives water from the Mississippi and Red rivers and is undergoing rapid geomorphic changes as it develops as a distributary. Understanding this complex system is difficult because it is being changed by the Atchafalaya River itself and by people, intentionally and otherwise.

RNR Organized Meeting to Review Atchafalaya

In January, 2008, School of RNR and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana organized the meeting "Ecosystem Functions and the Dynamic Atchafalaya River from the Old River Control Structure to the Continental Shelf." Researchers, managers and policymakers met to review what is known about the river and its associated environments, to report on recent and ongoing research and to identify information gaps that complicate decision making by land managers, water managers and policymakers. More than 150 people attended the two-day meeting to hear 32 technical presentations followed by a panel discussion led by private landowners, elected officials and agency personnel who manage resources associated with the Atchafalaya River. Of those 32 presentations, eight were made by faculty, graduate students or alumni of the SRNR.

The presentations addressed issues including water inflow to the river, forests, fisheries, wildlife, coastal wetland loss and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference

The School of RNR represented LSU and the LSU AgCenter at the 2008 Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C. in May. Meetings such as this are important because AgCenter researches can learn first-hand about research that relates to wetland management and restoration in Louisiana. Louisiana's wetland issues are unique in scale, but the issues themselves are not unique. On the West Coast, for example, the Sacramento River delta looks much like southeastern Louisiana with roads perched up high on levees, with high water on one side of road and with crop fields and even the roofs of encroaching subdivisions below sea level on the other side of the road. The landscapes are similar because both lie on drained, deltaic wetlands. On the East Coast, rapid subsidence in parts of Chesapeake Bay combine with global sea-level rise to cause marsh loss and create landscapes that look remarkably similar to coastal Louisiana. In addition to learning, AgCenter wetland researchers also teach. Louisiana wetland scientists have long been a leader in identifying how wetlands function, how they can be managed, and how they can be restored. This year's meeting included AgCenter representatives from both faculty and students.

RNR Helps with Floodplain Conference

Floodplain ecosystems include rivers and their current and historic floodplains. In the southeastern United States, the floodplain was historically dominated by bottomland hardwood forests and associated wetlands. Large-scale land clearing, primarily for agriculture, has altered the structure and function of these systems. A group of scientists and managers designed a conference entitled "Integrating Science into the Restoration and Management of Floodplain Ecosystems of the Southeast" to provide natural resource professionals with the most up-to-date information on these systems.

The conference, held in Little Rock, Arkansas in March 2008, was attended by more than 300 natural resource professionals, including several RNR students and faculty. Sammy King and Richard Keim were steering committee members; Sammy was also the chair of the Program Committee.

Ph.D. students Thorpe Halloran and Amy Scaroni, gave presentations at the meeting with several other RNR faculty serving as co-authors. A special issue of the journal "Wetlands" will be composed of selected papers from the conference. Sammy King is editing the special issue.

A Decade of Duck Production Work in the Prairies

by Dr. Frank Rowher

About 10 years ago, my first graduate student to work on a predator project finished her work. Pam Garrettson evaluated whether predator reduction in the prairies could be effective management to increase duck production. For decades biologists had documented that skunks, raccoons and red fox were doing great in the midcontinent breadbasket – right where most of the ducks wintering in Louisiana go to nest during the summer. Unfortunately, intensive agriculture made nests easy for predators to find, so few nests were hatching. A group called Delta Waterfowl Foundation suggested that professional trappers could reduce the numbers of predators and increase hatching rates. Most of the science and management community scoffed at the idea until they saw Pam's Ph.D. results: hatch rates were 15% in nontrapped areas but jumped to 45% on the 16-square-mile blocks where Delta employed a trapper.

In the decade following Pam's pioneering work, Delta Waterfowl has funded many more RNR students to evaluate aspects of predator management. Two RNR

students have looked at the size of trapped blocks. In one case, each trapper was assigned a huge block – 36 square miles of prime nesting habitat. In another case, a trapper was given 10 small blocks – just 1 square mile in size, but the blocks were spread over a couple of counties in North Dakota pothole habitat. The result was about the same – nest success doubled on the trapped blocks.

Recently, my students and I have focused our evaluation of predator management on other issues. We found that survival of ducklings was greater on the trapped blocks than on the nontrapped blocks. That finding for North Dakota was repeated in Saskatchewan. Another student found that when you reduce the medium-size predators, the population of mice really increases up until the harsh North Dakota winter knocks the rodent numbers back to the same low level that occur on nontrapped sites.

Surprisingly, predator management does not help grouse and shore birds. The grouse were sharp-tailed grouse, and the shorebirds were a mix of species, but mostly Upland Sandpipers, Common Snipe, Wilson's Phalaropes and Killdeer. Nest success for both grouse and shorebirds did not increase with trappings – perhaps because both groups of birds have high nest success even when predators are abundant.

One of my current Ph.D. students, Matt Pieron, is looking at the cumulative effects of trapping. The idea is that if trapping so consistently raises nest success, there should be greater production and more ducks at that site the following year. Matt has not documented more ducks on the blocks that have been trapped for multiple years as compared to nontrapped blocks. A Canadian graduate student working alongside Matt is radio-marking some of the young mallards on trapped and nontrapped blocks to test for dispersal of young birds when they return to the prairies after their first winter.

After a decade of work, it looks like predator management is an effective way to produce ducks in some landscapes. Louisiana duck hunters have had a decade where duck numbers have been pretty darn good – largely because the Dakotas have been exceptionally wet until this spring, and there has been a lot of grassland nesting cover due to agricultural set aside programs. But the recent spike in commodity prices may mean that much of that nesting cover will disappear and duck nest success in the U.S. prairies will take an ugly downturn. That is when managers may really be looking for an intensive management tool like predator management. Fortunately, they will have a decade worth of information available to help them assess the practicality of the predator management option for sending more ducks south.



This blue-winged teal nest has 10 teal eggs and two eggs laid parasitically by a ring-necked pheasant. This is pretty common in South Dakota where pheasants are abundant.

Two CSREES grants awarded to LSU AgCenter

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service awarded the LSU AgCenter a grant to become the country's 11th Center for Wood Utilization Research.

The 2008 CSREES grant provides funds for two LSU AgCenter projects:

- Developing technologically feasible and economically acceptable solutions for using wood fibers and used plastics to manufacture durable building materials.

- Developing a recycling system to reuse and recycle decommissioned treated wood and the chemicals used to preserve it.

The wood fiber-plastics grant to the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center will focus on long-term durability and performance of the products, and the recycling system will emphasize an economically viable and environmentally friendly closed-loop recycling system. "Wood fiber-plastic composites are emerging as a viable alternative to glass fiber-reinforced composites in various applications," Rutherford said. "They offer some inherent technical advantages over conventional composites like low cost, light weight, competitive mechanical properties, reduced energy consumption and a 'green' concept."

Researchers at the AgCenter's Calhoun Research Station are currently working on methods for recycling preservative-treated utility poles to keep them out of landfills. A substantial amount of decommissioned wood could be reused to produce value-added, structural engineering components. AgCenter's Louisiana Forest Products Development Center.

A Graduate Student's Quest to Better Understand Louisiana's White-tailed Deer

For the past two years, RNR graduate student Justin Thayer has been trapping, tagging and chasing white-tailed deer in West Baton Rouge Parish. This project began in 2006 when Scott Durham, Deer Program Leader for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and RNR professor Dr. Michael Chamberlain decided it was time to find out more about Louisiana's white-tailed deer populations.

Surprisingly, baseline studies describing basic deer population characteristics, such as harvest and survival rates and home range information, are lacking or outdated. Because deer hunting in Louisiana contributes more than \$340 million dollars annually to the state's economy, sound research is essential to insure proper management. Thus, the study was designed to determine deer harvest rates, survival estimates and home ranges sizes of white-tailed deer in a Louisiana.

Justin, with the help of RNR student workers and volunteers, has radio-marked and tracked deer in West Baton Rouge Parish over the past two years on bottomland hardwood forests. Forest management in this area utilizes deer-friendly timber practices, which have resulted in some of the states highest deer densities.

Captured deer range from 30-pound fawns to 200+ pound bucks. A total of 48 deer have been radio-marked (37 bucks and 11 does) to measure movement patterns and home range sizes. In the first study year, 24 deer were radio-marked, but one doe died, two bucks lost collars and nine deer were harvested by hunters (six bucks, three does). Each harvested deer was measured, aged and photographed.

Preliminary results from these harvested deer suggest smaller home ranges than those reported in similar

studies in other southern states. These deer have annual home ranges of 155-418 acres for bucks and 60-70 acres for does. Even more impressive were the home range areas of concentrated use or core area (where 50% of the radio locations were recorded), which averaged 34 acres for bucks and 12 acres for does. Although these results are preliminary and only from a small sample of radio-marked deer, observations from nearly two years of ongoing telemetry suggest similar results in most of the other radio-marked deer.

Preliminary findings highlighting small home ranges may indicate the importance of habitat quality to deer in southern, bottomland hardwood forests. Interest in the study among managers and hunters has been intense. Hunters want to know how much land is needed to effectively manage or "hold" a buck. Managers are more interested in knowing deer survival rates. Final study results should help hunters and managers better understand deer habits.



Justin Thayer with 200+ lb, 4.5-year-old buck.

King Rails, Waterbirds and Conservation Planning in Southwestern Louisiana

King Rails are a secretive wetland bird that is of concern in the United States and Canada because of precipitous population declines. It is currently listed as threatened or endangered in 13 states, although hunting is still allowed in Louisiana. It has been generally assumed that King Rail populations are doing well in the state, particularly in SW Louisiana rice fields and coastal freshwater marshes, but little quantitative data exist. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries funded several students to determine the status of King Rails in Louisiana and also to determine the number of resident to migrant King Rails wintering in Louisiana.

Sergio Pierluissi (M.S., May 2006) evaluated the effects of local and landscape factors on abundance, nest density and nest success of waterbirds using rice fields in southwestern Louisiana. He located more than 600 waterbird nests, including 77 King Rail nests. Nest success was more than 50% for King Rails. The presence of

irrigation ditches/canals around the perimeter of fields and a lack of trees were important for King Rails.

Research associate Brad Pickens has established transects throughout the rice region of southwestern Louisiana to determine regional King Rail densities. This fall, Brad begins a Ph.D. project evaluating King Rail distributions in coastal marshes of SW Louisiana and SE Texas. Master's student Jonathon Valente is currently evaluating King Rail distributions in rice fields and restored natural and managed wetlands in central and north Louisiana.

Marie Perkins (M.S., May 2007) used stable isotopes in feathers to determine the proportion of resident to migrant King Rails wintering in southwestern Louisiana. The basis for stable isotopes is that elements in rainwater such as H, N and C have different weights across a latitudinal gradient. When a bird forms a feather, the signature is captured in the feather and the approximate latitude (or geographic region) of feather formation can be determined. Marie captured 587 rails including 187 King Rails. None could conclusively be determined to be migrants, although two were questionable.

These studies on King Rails were heavily used in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Focal Species plan for the King Rail. Furthermore, recent interest in restoring rice fields to grassland in SW Louisiana through a "Grassland Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program" led to a study to evaluate conservation tradeoffs in the region. For example, several species of grassland birds are in decline and would benefit from grassland restoration. Several other studies, however, including Pierluissi's waterbird study, indicate the importance of rice for a wide variety of waterbirds and suggest that landscape characteristics can be important for breeding and wintering birds. Brad Pickens and Sammy King along with Richard Martin and Latimore Smith (The Nature Conservancy) and Larry Allain (U.S. Geological Survey's National Wetland Research Center) are developing a series of GIS habitat models that identify the most important areas for breeding King Rails and Mottled Ducks, migrating shorebirds, wintering waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes and grassland birds. This information will be available to assist conservation decisions in the region. Furthermore, the model has already stimulated additional research to validate model assumptions. For example, Rachel Villani (M.S. student) is testing model predictions for shorebirds as part of a broader study of the effects of local and landscape habitat characteristics on shorebird diversity and abundance in the region.



Common moorhen chick found in nest in southwestern Louisiana ricefields.

Sweetgum Extracts Possible Cancer Antidote

If you grew up in the southeastern United States, you've likely encountered sweetgum trees (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and their sometimes painful fruit while walking barefooted under their canopy. Sweetgum trees are a common shade tree found from Texas to Massachusetts and sweetgum balls are well known to those that have encountered them, but not well known is the recent discovery that sweetgum fruits contain chemicals that are potent cancer fighters, especially against prostate cancer. This discovery was made by Dr. Zhijun Liu, an RNR professor in the medicinal plants laboratory, and Drs. Peiyang Yang and Robert Newman, professors at the University of Texas Pharmaceutical Development Center, which is part of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. After extracting the bioactive components from the fruit, they tested the extract against a series of human cancer cell lines.

Their results were effective against all types of cancers tested but were most effective in destroying prostate cancer cells. Subsequent tests on laboratory mice with human prostate cancer tumors (xenograft) found sweetgum extracts were able to stop tumor growth, and additional studies found the effect was exerted through the dual inhibition of growth pathways that cancers typically use. To continue this line of research Liu, Yang and Newman have received a National Institute of Health grant to comprehensively investigate this promising fruit extract in an effort to identify the responsible compounds, safe dose levels, effective dose range and mechanisms of action behind these results. This additional research will likely lead to human clinical studies and hopefully a treatment for late-stage prostate cancer.

Fish and Wildlife Student Sees Politics and Science Interact in Washington

Bryan Piazza, a Ph.D. candidate with the Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit based in SRNR, normally spends his days in the field collecting samples or in his lab analyzing data. Bryan had a unique opportunity last June, however, to spend a week in Washington, D.C. observing how science and policy interact. He visited the offices of the headquarters of the Cooperative Research Units in the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters and Congressional offices on Capitol Hill. Here are his summary and reflections on the meetings.

First on the agenda was the USGS headquarters, where I had opportunity to participate in conference calls, learn about many USGS science programs and meet other agency leaders. I presented my research. At USFWS I spent a day with Jarrad Kosa, branch chief in the Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program, and I attended an initiatives and partnership meeting with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. From that particular gathering, I learned that partnerships are

essential for conservation, and that effective communication is critical in strategy development and program coordination.

On Capitol Hill I attended a U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources oversight hearing on the management of off-

road vehicle use on public lands. During the hearing, I listened to testimony from a USGS scientist, who talked about the effects of dust and soil compaction on dryland ecosystems and climate. This experience taught me how science is communicated and about the role



Bryan Piazza collecting data for fish growth in Breton Sound Estuary.

of science in public policy and land management.

The stark differences in the way questions were framed by the senators, and the way answers were given by the scientist made me think about differences in perspectives and the thin line that often exists for the scientist between honest brokering and issue advocacy in the communication of science as well as the role of the scientist in the decision-making process.

I benefited greatly from my week at CRU headquarters; in fact, it thoroughly surpassed my expectations. Although I had a number of different experiences, two common themes resonated. The first was the importance of partnership and cooperative conservation – the idea that people from multiple backgrounds and perspectives can come together and build relationships based on common goals is central to adaptive management and cooperative

conservation. The second was that good science and the effective and objective communication of science is vital for assessing management options, testing alternate hypotheses and providing information that can reduce uncertainty and contribute to the decision-making process. A lot of good people work hard for science and conservation in Washington. It was a privilege to meet with some of them and learn from their perspectives.

Spring Flood Alters Research

The 2008 spring flood of the Mississippi River was the largest since 1997 and was large enough to prompt the first opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway since that time. The Bonnet Carre was first opened during the flood of 1937. The spillway, which is 28 miles upstream of New Orleans, was opened to reduce the possibility of flooding downstream by diverting water into Lake Pontchartrain.

This year's opening was from April 11 to May 8. It is likely that new research will be conducted to study the effects of this large flood on natural resources. Already, the prolonged, high water in the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya Basin has prompted changes in the research activities for several SRNR researchers.

Chris Bonvillain (Ph.D. student) is working on crayfish ecology and physiology in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Increased water levels from the Mississippi River caused an above-average flood pulse that allowed water to inundate and stay on the floodplain of

the Atchafalaya River Basin for longer than usual. This allowed crayfish to be collected later and extended the season by several weeks. Low dissolved-oxygen conditions caused by floodwaters may have adverse effects on crayfish populations in the Atchafalaya River Basin.

Bill Kelso and Mike Kaller, SRNR faculty members, along with Alex Perret and A. Raynie Harlan, SRNR research associates, are working on long-term water quality and fisheries monitoring in the Atchafalaya River Basin. The increased water in the Mississippi River led to unusually deep and expansive flooding in the basin. Fisheries monitoring had to be substantially modified. As fish moved to exploit these habitats, sampling effectiveness declined sharply. Fishes were difficult to locate in high water, particularly when combined with large areas of poor water quality. The high water in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya has prevented nutrient rich, floodwaters from leaving the floodplain. Rather than providing a longer duration and larger habitat for fish spawning, the floodwaters were retained on the floodplain far longer than typical, leading to algal blooms and unusual losses of dissolved oxygen.

In the Henderson water management unit, water can normally flow only into another southern unit, but high water created a hydraulic head that prevented water movement, and created poor water quality.

Andy Nyman, an SRNR faculty member, joined forces with geologists from Tulane University to collect sediment cores in marshes and bays at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Preliminary results suggest that the flood was large enough to provide sediments to wetland restoration project areas that have not been receiving sediments in previous years.

For Amy Scaroni (Ph.D. student) and Andy Nyman, the 2008 spring flood created problems and opportunities for research studying how habitat change within the Atchafalaya Basin is affecting nutrient discharge to the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nutrients



Dr. Jun Xu stands in the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge when it was within a few feet of the top of that levee.

create thousands of square miles of water with too little dissolved oxygen for fish and crustaceans. The prolonged high water delayed work to collect cores for determining nutrient storage rates in soils, but promoted the collection of suspended sediment data that had not been planned.

Jun Xu, a hydrology faculty in SRNR, led a research team to conduct intensive water sampling at several locations from the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River system. Along the Atchafalaya River, water samples were collected weekly from the main channel at Sim-

mesport, Melville, Butte La Rose, Wax Lake Outlet and Morgan City. In the Mississippi River, daily water samples were collected at Baton Rouge from the end of March to mid-May. The samples were analyzed for nitrogen, carbon and suspended solids. Preliminary results show that nutrient and sediment concentrations during the spring flood were highly variable, and that mass transport estimation must consider hysteresis in the concentration pattern during the rising and falling limbs of flood waves in this highly regulated river system.

Whooping Crane Research Update

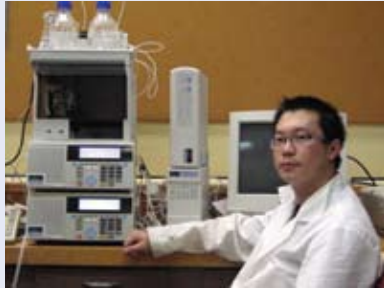
In January, 2008, Dr. Sammy King and Sung-Ryong “Jackie” Kang (Ph.D. student) attended the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership Meeting in Homosassa Springs, Florida. Sammy and Jackie were able to visit inland wetlands used by the resident flock of whooping cranes. In addition, they were able

to observe the migrant flock that spends their first winter in pens at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. Jackie’s Ph.D. project will be an evaluation of the suitability of White Lake for a potential resident flock of whooping cranes. Public interest in the potential restoration of whooping cranes to Louisiana is

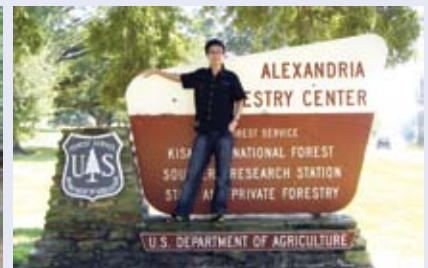
high. Sammy was interviewed for a short segment on the potential reintroduction of whooping cranes that aired on the Louisiana Public Broadcasting show, “Louisiana: The State We’re In,” and Andy accepted an invitation from the Baton Rouge chapter of the Audubon Society to speak at their annual spring program.



Whooping crane at Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park in Florida. Louisiana is being considered as potential reintroduction site for both a resident and migrant flock of whooping cranes.



RNR Graduate Students





the heartbeat of our research

RNR Researchers Studying Amazonian Birds

Dr. Phil Stouffer and Ph.D. student Erik Johnson spent the summer in Amazonian Brazil working at the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, near Manaus. The goal of their research is to understand why some bird species are vulnerable to rainforest loss. This summer, they mostly worked in an undisturbed forest site to determine the baseline number of species. As expected, bird species richness is very high. In the course of a day's work, Stouffer, Johnson, Brazilian bird ace Claudier Vargas, field assistant extraordinaire Jairo Lopes and Amazon rookie intern Sandra Frietas regularly detected more than 150 species. At the same time, evidence suggests that many of these species

occur at extremely low densities. For example, by radio-tracking the Royal Flycatcher (see photo), Stouffer and Johnson found it to occupy an area of more than 50 hectares (about 100 times the area used by a Northern Mockingbird). Another result from the latest data is that even 100-ha samples don't include all the species that are locally present. This isn't surprising for species like raptors, but also appears to be the case for some small songbirds. Results like these clearly show why small rainforest fragments can't support the full bird community. Future research will include more work in fragments and second growth to examine how birds use a disturbed landscape.



Royal Flycatcher (Onychorhynchus coronatus). In a land of strange and wonderful birds, this is one of the strangest. Normally, it folds the crest down and holds it sideways, giving a hammerhead look. In the hand, however, it elevates the crest and continually turns its head. This is a female, with an orangish crest. In males the crest is red. Although you can't see it here, this bird is wearing a small radio transmitter mounted like a fanny pack.

Two RNR Students Attend Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) Tropical Plant Systematics Course

Graduate students Metha Klock and Matt Brooks attended a Tropical Plant Systematics Course in Costa Rica, hosted by the Organization for Tropical Studies this summer. OTS has been dedicated to engaging undergraduates and graduate students in tropical ecosystem research for more than 30 years. This five-week course focused on phylogenetic relationships, analyses and identification of tropical plants and plant communities. Twenty students from all over North and South America participated in the course, which covered a range of habitats from



Metha Klock (LSU RNR) and Sarah Youngstrum (UMSL) in a Costa Rican paramo

dry forest to cloud forest and rain forest. Metha and Matt developed essential skills for sampling tropical plant communities—including field and analytical techniques—and learned how to identify the many families of woody plants and ferns found in the Neotropics. Metha currently researches methods of containing the non-native, invasive Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) through demographic modeling while Matt integrates his botanical interests into his grassland bird research in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Netherlands

For three weeks in May, Amy Scaroni traveled to the Netherlands with a group of landscape architecture students to participate in a LA 4501 course, Living With Water: LSU in the Netherlands. The course consisted of a series of field trips designed to explore the Dutch approach to flood and stormwater management, with special emphasis on innovative solutions for coastal defense.

Brazil

Later, in July, Amy also traveled to Cuiaba, Brazil to attend the eighth International Wetlands Conference (INTECOL). She gave a talk entitled, "Potential for Nutrient Removal by a Large River Floodplain; Atchafalaya River Basin, Louisiana, USA," which was closely aligned with the conference theme: Big Wetlands, Big Concerns. Way to go Amy! Keep up the good work.

\$100,000 seed grant awarded to LSU, SLU

Dr. Thomas J. Dean has received a seed grant from the Managed Ecosystem Program of the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program to develop methods and preliminary data to test the collective effect of hydraulic architecture of individual trees on the self-thinning trajectory of loblolly pine plantations. The coprincipal investigator is Dr. Volker Stiller of Southeastern Louisiana University. The total value of the seed grant is \$99,959 for 24 months. The grant was possible through the Experimental Program for Stimulating Competitive Research. The greenhouse portion of the study will be conducted at SLU, and the field aspect of the research will be conducted at the School of Renewable Natural Resources' Lee Memorial Forest.

France

Dr. Niels de Hoop presented a paper on Louisiana's experience in logging safety to the International Conference on Safety and Health in Forestry, held in May 2007 in Annecy, France. The audience, which was mostly French, Swiss and German, was particularly interested in the award that the Louisiana logging industry and Dr. de Hoop received in 2002 from the assistant secretary of labor for OSHA for the cooperative nature of our logging safety program. They resolved to create an award system that would recognize outstanding logging and forest worker safety programs in Europe.

Austria

Dr. de Hoop also traveled to Vienna, Austria, in November to deliver the keynote address to a forest engineering conference on biomass utilization. The audience found it enlightening to see the wide variety of biomass sources we use in the United States. One of the

major powerplants in Vienna generates electricity 100% from woody biomass, mostly from pulpwood-size trees.

Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam

In November 2007, six wetland scientists from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam and members of the International Crane Foundation visited RNR to discuss issues in the Mekong River Basin. Seminars and group discussions highlighted that the Mekong is a large river system that is globally important for its biodiversity values, but that there are also complex and intertwined ecological, hydrological and sociological problems facing the region. The similarities between the Mississippi River system, and the Mekong are striking. It is clear that RNR can assist them in technology transfer and educational opportunities. Sammy King, Richard Keim and Andy Nyman are pursuing funding opportunities with various partners to initiate research and outreach in this region.

Not your average buoy

Cyclists and joggers around University Lake might notice a bright, yellow floating object in the middle of the lake or not, depending on how much sweat they have in their eyes. But if they were to look closely, they would see not just an ordinary buoy but an expensive, high-tech piece of scientific equipment. This particular buoyant is part of an \$80,000 project supported by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The project, directed by forest hydrology Professor Dr. Jun Xu, aims to enhance research and teaching in watershed hydrology and water quality at LSU with acquisition of a state-of-the-art environmental monitoring buoy.

The EMB system measures a series of water quality parameters including water temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity and algae, dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll concentrations in the lake water. Recorded water quality data are transmitted in real-time into Jun's research lab and are also accessible from classrooms. The data provide opportunities to university researchers and students to study urban runoff on water quality.

So, joggers, keep up the pace, keep jogging (and sweating) and know that good science is happening in your lakes.



Environmental monitoring buoyant powered by solar energy measures and transmits real-time water quality data to university researchers and classrooms.

Extension News

Cypress Mulch Study Shows Demand and Trends for Major U.S. Demand Sectors

The use of Louisiana cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in mulch has been the subject of heated debate for the past decade. In the fall of 2007, three major home centers decided to no longer sell cypress mulch that came from Louisiana, citing environmental concerns – namely the deterioration of coastal wetlands. This has become a topic of controversy with parties for and against making strong arguments supporting their respective claims.

The Louisiana Forest Products Development Center recently conducted a national survey of top home centers, nurseries and landscapers to better understand need, use and demand for different types of tree mulch available on the market, particularly cypress mulch. For the purposes of this article, the term *mulch* is used to indicate organic mulch made from trees (bark, pine straw or wood chips).

Results indicate that 27% of home centers and 60% of nursery/landscape respondents nationwide sell

mulch. The overall preference is for pine bark (25% of respondents) followed by cedar (21%) cypress (18%), pine straw (13%), hardwood (12%) and other (11%).

When cypress mulch was examined specifically, purchasing and sales trends did not seem to be affected by aforementioned environmental issues.

Respondents indicated that 41% of cypress mulch originated from Florida, 16% from Georgia, 10% from Louisiana and 19% from unknown sources.

Of the groups surveyed, landscapers were the most concerned with the origin of the trees used to make cypress mulch (60% of respondents), followed by nurseries (48%) and home centers (23%). When asked if they believed their customers were concerned about the origin of the trees from which mulch was made, 57% of landscapers, 19% of nurseries and 15% of home centers agreed that this was the case.

When asked about the benefits of forest certification, 33% of home centers, 61% of nurseries and 69% of landscapers would consider buying cypress mulch that came from certified forests. These responses support the previous tree-origin questions.

All respondents were asked if they thought they would be selling cypress mulch in one year and in five years. Only 16% of home center respondents indicated they would be selling cypress mulch – this is basically unchanged from current sales. Some 33% of landscapers said they would be selling cypress mulch in the next year and 27% in five years, which is an increase from the 18% that currently use cypress mulch. Currently, 34% of nurseries use cypress mulch and survey results indicate an increase to 38% in one year and 43% in five years.

Results from the survey indicate that few home center respondents sell any mulch at all and that landscapers and nurseries are the main supply chain participants for mulch. Providing landscapers and nurseries with forest certification could encourage them to use cypress mulch if they knew that accepted forest management practices were being adhered to.

Public outreach important to Thomas

Dr. Glenn Thomas joined RNR in January 2007 as an associate professor in fisheries extension and research, with a split assignment between Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter. Previously, he was a regional fisheries agent in the Atchafalaya region for the Sea Grant and AgCenter. He also was program manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Public outreach via mass media communications has been the cornerstone of Dr. Thomas' program. In the last 19 months Thomas expanded the distribution of his monthly news column on fisheries and aquatic stewardship issues, Fins and Waters (archived at <http://www.seagrantsfish.lsu.edu/resources/fins/index.htm>). When this outreach tool was initiated in 2005 it was distributed to five regional newspapers; statewide distribution now extends to 18 publications. In summer of 2006, Thomas took over the helm of the Lagniappe fisheries newsletter, archived at <http://www.seagrantsfish.lsu.edu/resources/lagniappe/2008.htm>. Since then, the newsletter, with tremendous support from Sea Grant communications, has been taken from single-color hard-copy distribution to electronic distribution of a full-color expanded format. Feature articles from Lagniappe are frequently reprinted in popular Louisiana outdoor sports magazines.

ISA Southern Chapter annual conference slated for Shreveport

In March 2009, the Southern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture will hold its annual conference and trade show in Shreveport. This will be only the second time in its history that ISA has held its meeting in Louisiana, and we want to say "Welcome." The conference is March 17 – 20.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference and the International Society of Arboriculture, visit their Web site at <http://www.isa-arbor.com> or contact Dr. Hallie Dozier at hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Fisheries Extension and Research

Dr. Glenn Thomas is an Associate Professor in fisheries extension and research. His appointment is split between Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter; his assignment with Renewable Natural Resources began in January 2007. Previously, he was a regional fisheries agent in the Atchafalaya region at the Sea Grant/AgCenter. He was also program manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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Dr. Thomas' program includes hosting and moderating for leaders and professionals on such topics as post-storm recovery of Louisiana fisheries, fisheries science advances, and Gulf of Mexico research initiatives.

Research interests include invasive aquatic species, diadromous fish species-of-concern, and enhancement of marine sport fishing opportunities via improving availability of live bait. Recent refereed research papers on invasive fish species include one on a practical new method to determine the ploidy of escaped invasive fish that have been stocked as both diploids and triploids. Currently in press a chapter on the occurrence, distribution and biology of the Asian carps in Louisiana.

Other goals of Thomas' program are in the areas of fishery industries enhancements and leadership development. He works closely with the members of the Louisiana State Seafood Industry Advisory Board. He serves as Facilitating Chair of the Board, which is comprised of representatives of Louisiana fishing industry and seafood organizations, restaurant associations, and relevant regulatory and NGO groups. The Board advises the Legislature on statutes to improve state seafood industries, and the chairperson role also provides opportunities to bring important information to the leaders of seafood industries and to initiate activities to address problems brought to the table by industry leaders.

First-ever 4-H All-Girl Forestry Team Competes at National

For the first time in state 4-H history, an all-girl team represented Louisiana at the annual Forestry Invitational competition at historic Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp in West Virginia, July 20-24.

The three girls competed against teams from 13 other states. They placed seventh, a very respectable finish for them and first-year coach Keith Hawkins, extension area forester. Brian Chandler, also an extension area forester, assisted with the training.

The team included Leah Delahoussay of Erath (Vermilion Parish), Kristin Hippler of Many (Sabine Parish) and Julie Barrios of Converse (also from Sabine Parish).

The Forestry Invitational is one of several national 4-H competitions held each year. Louisiana has participated in this event since 1981.

For more information on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, go to: www.aces.edu/n4hfi.



The 2008 4-H Forestry Invitational team, (L-R), Chaperon Gwen Fontenot, Leah Delahoussay, Kristen Hippler, Julie Barros, and Team Coach, Keith Hawkins.



Leah Delahoussay takes a swing during a tree/rope climbing exercise at Burden Center.

Who's Who

Vlosky Receives Awards

Dr. Richard Vlosky, director, professor and extension specialist with the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, received two Silver Awards for Excellence on February 6 from Southern Regional Extension Forestry. The first award was in the category of computer software and Web sites for his work on developing the Louisiana Forest Industries Web site www.lsuagcenter.com/forestindustries. The second award was in the category of journal publications for his article in the *Journal of Extension*, titled "Web-based Communities as a Tool for Extension and Outreach." The article was co-authored by **Dr. Sanna M. Kallioranta**, consultant with Pöyry Forest Industry Consulting in New York, and **Scott Leavengood**, wood products extension agent, Department of Wood Science and Engineering, Oregon State University.

New Faces

Brigida Cook-Brown has been appointed as an extension associate under the direction of Dr. Hallie Dozier. Brigida comes to the LSU AgCenter after years of teaching and tree work. A native of Ferriday, Louisiana, Brigida earned her B.S. from Southern University where her major area of study was urban forestry. Brigida has six years of experience as a horticulturalist/arborist and consulting arborist in Washington D.C. and Atlanta. Her primary



Brigida Cook-Brown

duties with Dr. Dozier will be with the Louisiana licensed arborist continuing education program, although her talents and skills will allow her to work on a wide variety of projects.

Jian Zhang recently joined the School as a research associate in the medicinal plant lab directed by Dr. Zhijun Liu. Jian is a natural product chemist with an interest in essential oils, natural sweeteners and polyphenolic compounds from botanical sources. Jian was a faculty member with the Guangxi Normal University in Guilin, China, where she also received B.S and M.S. degrees, before she first came to LSU in July 2001. She worked as a research associate in the School with focuses on the preparation and analysis of plant extracts for bioactivity testing until December 2002 when she returned to China and is now associate professor in the School of Perfume and Aroma Technology at the Shanghai Institute of Technology. She returns



Dr. Christopher Green gets up close and personal with his research.

Green Joins Faculty

Dr. Christopher Green joined the faculty as an assistant professor in January. His areas of expertise are fish physiology, ecotoxicology and aquaculture. He completed his bachelor's in zoology at the University of Oklahoma, his master's degree in fisheries and aquaculture science at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and his Ph.D. in zoology at Southern Illinois University.

Christopher's current research projects include investigating reproductive techniques for two different marine baitfish species, examining endocrine and histological changes in gonad maturation for channel catfish and developing methods and tools for quantifying physiological condition in crawfish.

Before arriving at LSU, he investigated the relationship between estrogen mimicking compounds in the environment and fish sex determination and reproductive health. Prior to this, Christopher studied larval fish developmental stability from populations reared experimentally in sublethal concentrations of a breakdown product of sarin gas. He hopes to integrate environmental physiology within both natural fisheries and aquaculture here.



Jian Zhang

to the lab this time participating in a couple of medicinal plant research projects. One is the HPLC analyses of two unique Guangxi plants and the other is the oral absorption and obesity study in laboratory animals fed with high fat diet. She plans to return to Shanghai in the fall but will continue collaborations with Dr. Liu on some projects, including the extraction and characterization of some essential oil samples and sourcing study of the sweet leaf tea plant now under NIH sponsored investigations.

Matthew Kimball has been appointed as post-doctoral researcher under the director of Dr. Megan LaPeyre. Mr. Kimball will lead a team to examine the effects of water control structures on nekton movement using acoustic imaging technology in coastal marshes of Louisiana. Matthew has a Ph.D. in ecology and evolution with several years of experience with fishes and their estuarine and coastal habitat.

Faculty News

Jun Xu recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the peer review panel meeting for the USDA CSREES FY 2008 Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowships Grants Program.

In the Classroom

Students Spend 8 Weeks in Outdoor Classroom

Once again, forestry students left the big city behind and hit the trail to the off-campus Spring Forestry Camp. The eight-week block of field courses is a requirement for all forestry degree majors. Most of the camp takes place at SRNR's Lee Memorial Forest, where students are able to study and enjoy a wide range of wildlife and plant species along with their respective habitats and ecosystems.

Students complete a concentrated set of regular courses (8 credit hrs.) in the first half of the spring semester, take a spring break and then go off to camp. The camp runs through the last eight weeks of the spring semester for another 8 credit hrs. Camp consists of forest measurements, dendrology (tree and shrub ID), silviculture (cultural practices), forest wetlands, wood utilization, timber harvesting and

silvicultural prescriptions.

Students participate in field trips and conduct exercises in two important forest cover types in Louisiana as part of their silvicultural training. Day-long trips are conducted in bottomland hardwood types to learn soil-species relationships and silvicultural systems used in managing this type ecosystem. Students also learn techniques for evaluating regeneration in both bottomland hardwood and upland pine types. Students are also exposed to soil-site relationships in upland forests and cultural practices related to improving forest productivity.

Spring Camp plays a vital role in the School's forestry curriculum. It gives students opportunities to synthesize the theoretical knowledge they have learned and apply it to the real world. It gives students an opportunity to experience a



Students study tree characteristics as Dr. Jim Chambers teaches spring dendrology.

wider range of ecosystems and field exercises than is possible in afternoon laboratories based on or near the Baton Rouge campus, and it provides a lot of exposure to pro-

fessional forestry practices. Spring Camp ensures that our graduates have every opportunity to become competent in practicing forestry as professionals.



Director Allen Rutherford (L) and Research Associate Melinda Hughes (3rd L) take a break with camp students during Dendrology class. (L-R) Ian Stone, Hunter Hutchinson, Jason Kalantari, Jean Jacques Boudreaux Jr., Randy Graves, Kevin Borne, David Smith.

Five-day Trip Down Texas Coast

Students enrolled in the graduate-level class “Management and Restoration of Wetland Function” are seen here in Texas viewing coastal marshes from the sand dunes about 100 meters north of the Rio Grande River. A crucial part of this class is a five-day field trip down the Texas coast to the river. This class is taught by Sammy King and Andy Nyman who states, “We could travel twice as far to the east, but we wouldn’t see as much wetland variety because of the tremendous gradients in rainfall and river discharge between the Mississippi River and the Rio Grande River.”



From left to right, Sung-Ryong “Jackie” Kang, Vasessa Tobias, Abbey Tyrna, Sharon Trahan, John Gordon, Ann Gerald and Biao Zhong. The fall 2007 trip depended upon a generous donation by Scott Nesbit and Natural Resource Professionals, LLC, a local environmental consulting firm.

SRNR Contributes to Natural Resource Education

LSU students have a number of courses available that focus on the natural world and the diversity of complex environmental problems currently facing a growing world population. One such course available in the School is RNR 1001 - Natural Resource Conservation, which was developed by Dr. Bill Kelso in 1992 to expose SRNR students to the conservation of all renewable resources, focusing on forests, wildlife, fisheries and wetlands.

“At the time, we felt that we needed to expose all of our students, whether they were in forestry, wildlife or fisheries, to the interconnectedness of terrestrial, wetland and aquatic ecosystems and the vast diversity of renewable resources that they would be dealing with in their careers. We believed that it was critical that students appreciate how the interactions of human activities, land use patterns and natural ecosystem functions affected the world’s living resources.”

With an initial enrollment of 25 students, the course was well-received by our students, and enrollment of students from outside the School began to increase. In 1994, the course was approved as an elective for the natural science component of LSU’s general education curriculum, and enrollment increased to 80 students, which was the maximum possible for the large lecture room in the RNR building.

In the spring 2006 semester, Dr. Kelso moved the class to a larger classroom across campus and increased enrollment to 175 students, and again to 340 students in the fall 2007 semester. “The primary reason I increased enrollment for the class was to be able to reach more students in other majors around campus, show them how the world

works and what the SRNR is all about. It never ceases to amaze me how little nonscience majors know about nature, how it works, how we are affecting ecosystem processes around the world and how we can improve the sustainable use of living resources.”

Stressing sustainability, Dr. Kelso covers management strategies for forest, rangeland, wildlife, fisheries and wetland resources, as well as the physical, biological and ecological principles that determine ecosystem function and the pervasive impacts a growing human population is having on the planet’s ability to function.

“We talk about human population growth, global climate change, pollution, water quality and quantity, energy, problems that they, and their children, will need to address in the 21st century. But I also try and stress that there are solutions to these problems, and there are sustainable ways that we can use the world’s resources. Hopefully, I am giving these students, regardless of their chosen fields of study, an awareness of nature, an appreciation of the complexity of functioning ecosystems, an understanding of how natural resources can be managed sustainably and a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the world’s living resources.”

In the Field

Freshwater Fish Communities

by Jonathan Carpenter*

Fishes are important commercial and recreational resources around the world, and Louisiana, the “sportsman’s paradise,” is certainly no exception to their importance. I constantly see pictures of recreational anglers proudly displaying their catch – a bass, a perch, maybe a catfish, and, although these fish are both important and interesting, what about the rest of the fish species out there?

The United States and Canada support a staggering 790 species, at least 156 of which can be found in Louisiana. Most of the species are small, somewhat difficult to identify at first glance, and by most peoples standards inedible. These attributes, among others, have led to many species being lumped into a group collectively referred to as “bait fish.”

Despite this generalization, these species perform a wide variety of important roles in our aquatic ecosystems. The natural history of each species, big or small, game or nongame, is closely linked to the natural histories of all fishes in its community.

The region known locally as the

Florida parishes in SE Louisiana is characterized by a community of organisms that is different in composition from the communities in the rest of the state. The streams running through the area run clear if the weather hasn’t contributed too much recent rain, and their banks are often lined with native shrubs like illicium (*Illicium floridanum*) and azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*). The fish communities in these streams reflect these unique habitats, and include many difficult-to-observe species.

The fish communities of these creeks are of great interest to LSU graduate student Brian Ward and his major professor Dr. Bill Kelso. Brian, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina with a B.S. degree in biology from Stetson University, came to LSU in August of 2006 to investigate the relative importance of habitat and human land use activities on fish community composition. His methods are shocking – literally. Many of the species he is investigating are reclusive and regularly take shelter under overhangs or woody debris, making it impossible to catch them by typical methods like netting. Instead, Brian uses electricity. He wears a large, plastic-encased pack (somewhat reminiscent of “Ghost Busters”) on his back, which is hooked up to a long pole. The end of the pole is held in the water,



Todd Shupe (right) awards Dr. Thomas Eberhardt a plaque in honor of his participation in the Elvin Choong Memorial Lecture Series. The lecture was held in the RNR building in May.

Eberhardt Speaker at Choong Series

Dr. Thomas L. Eberhardt, research scientist with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station in Pineville, La. was recently honored as the third speaker in the Elvin T. Choong Memorial Lecture Series. Dr. Eberhardt presented a lecture on May 13, titled “Southern Pine Bark Quality: Impact on the Living Tree and the Utilization of Available Biomass Resources.” The presentation was well received by the diverse audience because of its many applications to both forestry and forest products.



RNR Conservation Biologist student Jonathan Carpenter searches for elusive birds of the Chiricahua Mountains.

emitting a charge of about 700 volts or so. The charge does not kill the fish, but stuns them. The fish are quickly collected with dip nets and moved to a bucket to await processing. After they are measured, identified and recorded, most are released back into the stream or taken back to the lab for further study.

Brian will use the data he collects to determine the factors that most strongly influence fish community composition in these streams, which may eventually lead to improved land use practices that help protect the integrity and biodiversity in Louisiana's stream systems.

**Jonathan Carpenter is conservation biology major in the school of renewable natural resources at Louisiana State University. His passions are biodiversity and tropical ecology, and he plans on pursuing a career in writing, research and education.*

A rare Stone in the woods

Forestry student Ian Stone recently returned from the University of Maine where he participated in a research program for summer undergraduates. Ian's project focused on assessing the timber harvesting capacity in Maine and the portion of it that is capable of harvesting biomass for energy or other products. The goal was to see if the capacity to supply mills with biomass material exists in sufficient quantities or if it will have to be developed. This is crucial to the supply chain since products cannot be made without

the raw materials.

Ian worked closely with Dr. Jeff Benjamin, the forestry operations professor, to develop the techniques used to gather the information to assess and to work out any potential problems. This experience is excellent preparation for graduate school while providing a good feel for what a graduate student does and how research is performed.

"I strongly recommend this program, or one like it, to any undergraduate that has an interest in graduate school and research," Ian said after his return.

This undergraduate research experience is part of the University's Forest Bioproducts Research Initiative. It brings together faculty from forestry, chemistry and wood science to develop new products and processes from forest resources.

Of course, in addition to the work experience, Ian was able to have some fun exploring Maine's rich outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, fishing and white-water rafting. Ian was able to spend time in Acadia National Park, Baxter State Park and Katahdin as well several local fishing spots.

Ian's opinion of the program: "Maine is beautiful in the summer, and it is much cooler than Louisiana. All-in-all I feel that this is one of the best summer programs around. I have made some great connections and I have enjoyed myself in every aspect. I strongly urge our Renewable Natural Resource sophomores and juniors to look for applications next year."



Ian Stone, a senior with a concentration in forestry ecological restoration, at Echo Lake in Acadia National Park.

Student News

Undergrads and Grads Honored at 2007/2008 Spring Awards Banquet

Undergraduate Student Awards

Scholastic Awards (3.0 or higher GPA). Kyle S. Alexander, Samuel Bahlinger, Blain Ceraime, Steven Garrard, Whitney Gayle, Katherine Gautreaux, Lauren Hart, Matthew Huber, Jace Jarreau, Lindsay Schober, Matthew Songy, Kimberly Stagnitta, Warren Virgets, Jonathan Winslow, Christina Wolf.

F-W-F Alumni Association Scholarships (made possible through the generous contributions of Alumni Association members). Recipients: Casey Gray, Kristy King, Ryan E. Leeson, Whitney Normand, Robyn Sellers.

Marc Dupuy Jr. Wildlife Conservation Scholarship. (Dupuy, from Marksville, La., was a dedicated sportsman and conservationist.) Recipient: Robyn L. Sellers.

William A. Knight Scholarships. (Knight, a 1929 LSU graduate and electrical engineer, bought property in Washington Parish and established a forest plantation on it in the 1950s. Having a sense of stewardship and land ethic, he and his wife, Bernice, left their estate to our School and established this scholarship.) Recipients: Jean Boudreaux, Ben Bullock, Hunter Hutchinson, Adam Klobucar, Ryan Manuel, Erick Rietschier, Brian Sebastian, Lauren Smith, Ian Stone, Marcus Wilkes, James Wilson.

F. O. Bateman Scholarship. (Bateman was widely respected for his forest planting in the 1920s. This scholarship is made possible by gifts from his family: daughter, Mrs. Pauline Stanley; Pauline's husband, Ben; and their sons Larry, Tom and Paul.) Recipients: Ashley E. Hingle,

Christina M. Perez and Russell B. Freeland Jr.

William C. Hopkins Memorial Scholarship. (Professor Hopkins received a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and M.F. & Ph.D. forestry degrees from Yale. Before coming to LSU in 1955, he conducted forestry research at Mississippi State University. Because of his enthusiasm about teaching and research and being highly regarded by students, colleagues and friends, a scholarship was established by them when he died in 1967.) Recipient: Russell B. Freeland Jr.

Hunter Barrilleaux Memorial Woods and Waters Scholarship. (The Woods and Waters Club of Baton Rouge sponsor this scholarship. It is dedicated to youth education, knowledge, conservation, fellowship, sportsmanship, scholarship and the perpetuation of these ideals. It is awarded to a junior or senior majoring in forestry, wildlife or fisheries who exemplifies the aspirations of the Woods and Waters Club.) Recipient: John Meche.

A. Bigler Crow Memorial Scholarship. (Professor Crow earned his B.S.F. from North Carolina State and M. F. from Yale. He served with the U.S. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the American Forestry Association. He became an LSU Forestry professor in 1946. A scholarship was established with contributions from his former students, friends and colleagues.) Recipient: Andrew G. Haase Jr.

Xi Sigma Pi Outstanding Sophomore Award. (The Nu Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi, the forestry honorary society, awards a scholarship to a student who has completed the sophomore year in recognition for excellent scholastic achievement and outstanding activity or leadership in forest resource management.) Recipient: Ian J. Stone.

Dean's Undergraduate Research Grant. Recipient: Meg Williamson

Graduate Student Awards

Clark M. Hoffpauer Outstanding Wildlife Graduate Student Award. (The Clark M. Hoffpauer Memorial Fund honors the man who was dedicated and committed to wildlife and natural resource studies and LSU. Hoffpauer served as the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.) Recipient: Amy Scaroni.

Ben and Pauline Stanley Excellence Award for Outstanding Graduate Students. (This award recognizes masters and doctoral students who have made outstanding contributions to research, service or teaching in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. It is made possible by Pauline and the late Ben Stanley and their sons, Larry, Tom and Paul.) Recipients: M.S., April Mason; Ph.D.: Diana Obanda.

Student Accolades

M.S. student Jonathon Valente was an invited speaker at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Ornithological Society. Jonathon presented the first-year results of his study of waterbird habitat relationships in central and north Louisiana. M.S. student Laura Palasz also presented on the statewide surveys of Henslow's sparrows.

Patti Newell (M.S. student) and Hugo Gee (Ph.D. student) presented their research results at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ivory-billed Woodpecker Research Symposium in June 2008 in Lafayette. Patti presented her research on the effects of partial cutting of bottomland hardwoods on cerambycid beetles and the foraging ecology of pileated woodpeckers. Hugo presented his preliminary findings on the effects of altered hydrologic and geomorphic processes on tree growth and mortality in bottomland hardwood forests.

Den Davis and Kris Brown, two graduate students working with Jun

Xu, have recently initiated the process for forming a student chapter of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). Joining them in petition for recognition were graduate students from various departments across the campus, including civil and environmental engineering, environmental studies and oceanography.

Congratulations to Fugui Wang, a Ph.D. student working with Jun Xu, for two research articles being accepted for publication in *Journal of Hydrology and Environmental Monitoring & Assessment*, two well-respected international journals.

Congratulations to Biao Zhong, a Ph.D. student working with Jun Xu, for a research article being accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal, *Environmental Management*.

Three graduate students made presentations at the American Water Resources Association 2008 Annual Conference: April BryantMason, "Seasonal Variation of Nitrogen Isotope Chemistry of the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River System"; Den Davis, "Export of Nitrogen, Carbon and Total Suspended Solids During the 2008 Mississippi River Flood" and "Dissolved oxygen response to rain events in a shallow eutrophic urban lake"; and Kris Brown, "Comparing Two Methods of Calculating Open-Water Evaporation for a Shallow, Subtropical Lake."

Erik Johnson, wildlife student, recently won an award for best student poster presentation at the joint meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists. He was also awarded a student travel award to attend the conference, which took place April 17-20 in Mobile, Alabama. The title of his presentation was "Ectoparasites Affect Bird Condition in Neotropical Forest Fragments." Congratulations, Erik!

Club News

SAF Student Chapter Activities

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) Student Chapter at LSU has had a very active year. In November, seven students attended the SAF national convention in Portland, Ore. In addition to seeing the many interesting displays and hearing the latest research results, the group took some time to see some local sights of interest to foresters.

Last year, the chapter started working on a natural resource management plan for Camp Carruth (Boy Scouts) near Port Allen. Progress continues as time allows. This spring, data were gathered on soils for analysis for tree species suitability.

The chapter attended the Southern Forestry Conclave for several reasons (primarily liability, image and lack of interest). Those issues have been addressed to our satisfaction. Coincidentally, there has been a renewed interest by the students. LSU attended the Conclave held in Gainesville, Fla., with some 12 students attending. The physical events were featured on ESPN Outdoors Timbersports, and some of our students were featured on ESPN's Web site. Overall, LSU placed seventh out of 16 schools.

The chapter was also involved in some service projects, such as Ocean Commotion and AgMagic, which help educate young people about natural resources.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who supported the SAF Student Chapter by purchasing Christmas trees and through direct donations. The major activities of the Chapter are expensive but worthwhile for the networking and knowledge gained. If you would like to support the Chapter in these activities, please contact Dr. de Hoop (cdehoop@lsu.edu) or President Pro-Tempore Randy Graves (randy.e.graves@gmail.com).



SAF student members take a break from the national convention in Oregon to visit Mount St. Helens. Attending were (l. to r.) Andrew Haase, David Rahm, Jacques Boudreaux, Brian Sebastian, Amy Magro, Ian Stone and Anil Kizhakkepurakkal.



Students, alumni, faculty and former faculty met and chatted at the alumni reception at the SAF national convention in Portland, Ore. Pictured are (l to r) Dr. Niels de Hoop, Andrew Haase, Dr. Jim Chambers, Ian Stone, David Rahm, Dr. John Toliver, Amy Magro, Brian Sebastian, Dr. Allen Rutherford, Dr. Jim Hotvedt, Jacques Boudreaux, Rachael Rollason Billingham and Dr. Bill Patterson.



Forestry students Cole Bryant and David Rahm prepare for the crosscut saw competition at the Southern Forestry Conclave in Gainesville, Fla. Helping them are (r to l) Marcus Wilkes, Andrew Haase, Brad Smith, Amy Magro, Blaine Cerame, James Wilson and Ryan Manuel.

AFS Chapter Declared 'Outstanding'

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was recently awarded the Outstanding Large Chapter award at the 2008 AFS Southern Division Spring Meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia. The chapter was cited for "promoting professionalism among its members and enhancing fisheries in their region." Our own Jill Jenkins, Glenn Thomas, Michael Kaller and Kristi Butler from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries worked extremely hard on the nomination package. Congratulations on receiving this award!

Several SRNR students, research associates and faculty presented their research at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on January 31 and February 1, in Baton Rouge. Chris Llewellyn and Rafael Cuevas-Urbe won awards for their abstracts, and Craig Gothreaux, Peter Markos and Mason Piehler won awards for their posters.

Oral presentations were given by the following students, RAs and faculty: Thorpe Halloran, Shauna Harris, Chris Llewellyn, Brian Ward and Rafael Cuevas-Uribe

Research associate A. Raynie Harlan and new faculty member Chris Green also presented

Posters were presented by Chris Bonvillain, Craig Gothreaux, Peter Markos, Mason Piehler and Jonathan West. RNR students Chris Bonvillain and Kevin Melody also served on the programming committee along with faculty member and Program/Abstract Chair, Dr. Mike Kaller.

May 2008 Graduates

Bachelor of Science – Forestry

Daniel Cole Bryant
Benjamin R. Bullock
Andrew George Haase Jr.
Amy Joelle Magro
David P. Rahm
Brian Paul Sebastian
Bradford Loclon Smith
Marcus Wayne Wilkes Jr.
James Bartholomew Wilson

Bachelor of Science – Natural Resource Ecology & Management

Gregory Louis Badon
Jeffrey Daniel Broussard
Blain Annette Cerame
Jason William Hughes
Kristy Leanne King
John Joseph Meche
Robyn Leah Sellers
Michael Blair Williams

Bachelor of Science – Wildlife & Fisheries

Michael Nicholas Campbell
Master of Science – Forestry
April Bryant-Mason
Odoom-I Domson
Polwattage Kushil Pri Perera
Rangika Thilaksri Perera
Master of Science – Fisheries
Kevin Patrick Melody

Master of Science – Wildlife

Annelie Clare Crook
Patti J. Newell
Laura M. Palasz

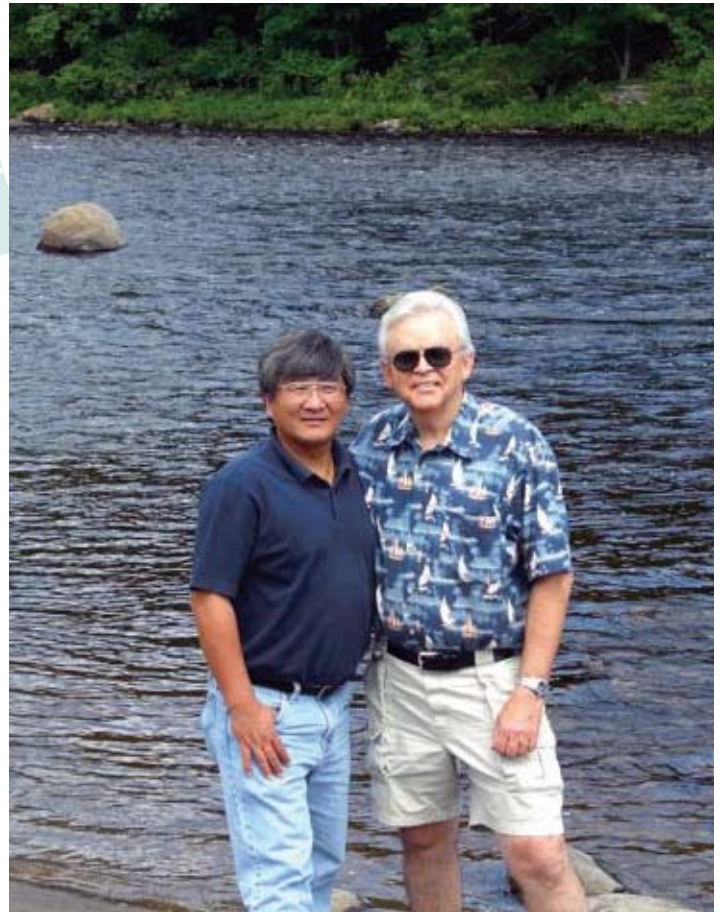
Alumni News

Former Director Update

Dr. Jun Xu recently visited Dr. Bob Blackmon, former SRNR director, currently residing in Troy, New York. Besides enjoying his retirement – bike riding, cross-country skiing, painting and displaying his art at various shows and festivals, Bob remains involved in higher education. He served on two review panels for Hudson Valley Community College, a two-year comprehensive institution that serves approximately 12,000 students each semester in the Great Capital Region of New York state. The first was a review of the biology program and the second was a review of the environmental studies program at the college.

During Xus' visit, Bob did not miss the opportunity of performing his director duty one more time to his former faculty member: He and Mary Beth spent a day guiding a tour to the headwaters of the Hudson River in the Adirondack Mountains!

Bob is also doing some canoeing with the canoe that the SRNR faculty and friends helped to fund with money given at his retirement in 2005. Engraved on one end of the canoe is "LSU." On the other end is "RNR." Best wishes to both Bob and Mary Beth! Bob's artwork can be found at <http://www.blackmonstudio.com/>.



Dr. Jun Xu recently visited Dr. Bob Blackmon at his home in Troy, New York.

Alumni News

Paul Y. Burns,
Prof. Emeritus, RNR

H. Michael “Mike” Barnes, ’65 B.S.F., ’68 M.S. forest products technology, has been named Fellow of the Society of Wood Science and Technology, an honor he received for his work at Mississippi State University in wood preservation. Mike received a doctorate from the State University of New York. He was the 2004 Alumnus of the Year for the LSU Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries Alumni Association.

James P. Barnett, ’57 B.S.F., ’63 M.F. is now Emeritus Scientist, USFA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Pineville, La. He received the School’s 1994 Alumnus-of-the-Year award. Recently he has written several human interest articles about forest workers in the South who contributed significantly to reforestation after the virgin southern pines were harvested. Some of his stories have been published. He is now considering producing a book containing approximately 40 of these fascinating historical sketches.

Bryant A. Bateman, ’26 B.S.F., was nominated posthumously by Dr. Paul Burns for the RNR School’s Hall of Fame. Dr. Bateman was the first LSU forestry graduate. He served on the RNR School’s faculty from 1931 until he retired in 1971. In 1947 he became the “father” of LSU’s game management (later called “wildlife”) degree program, and he began its fisheries program. A quiet man of integrity, he was loved and respected by fellow teachers, former students, professional colleagues, farm and forest landowners and just plain people throughout the South.

Bob G. Blackmon, ’69 Ph.D. forestry and former RNR School director, has a son, a writer who has been in the news this year. Douglas A. Blackmon has written a book, published in 2008: *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of*

Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II. Doubleday, 469 p. Douglas is Atlanta bureau chief for the *Wall Street Journal*. He was interviewed on PBS “Talk of the Nation” March 25, 2008.

Paul Y. Burns, RNR School director ’55-’76 and Honorary Alumnus, turned 88 in July 2008 and has moved to a retirement center in Baton Rouge, only five minutes by car from his office in the School of Renewable Resources Building. He is the only retired RNR professor with an office in the RNR Bldg. He goes to his office nearly every day, and he enjoys seeing alumni who are visiting the School.

Robert H. Chabreck, ’56, B.S.F., ’57 M.S.G.M., jointly with **R. Greg Linscombe,** ’70 B.S.F., ’72 M.S.G.M., shared an award this year: the Distinguished Service Award for the Advancement of Spatial Analysis in Louisiana. The award was made by the 24th La. Remote Sensing and G.I.S. Workshop. Bob is retired from LSU and lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Merle. He reported that his son **David O. Chabreck,** B.S.F. ’77, continues to work for the U.S. Forest Service in Gloster, Miss. David’s son, Bob’s grandson, had a baseball scholarship in a Mississippi college, where he earned a master’s degree. He is now

employed by the Border Patrol.

Poo Chow, ’61 M.F., is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois, but he has not completely ceased teaching. He taught a forest products course at his university during the second semester of 2007-08.

Robert C. “Bob” Davidge Sr. ’89 M.S. forestry, ’98 Ph.D., resides in the same retirement center as Dr. Paul Burns, St. James Place in Baton Rouge. Bob retired as an engineer with General Electric in New York State several years ago, then came to Baton Rouge and began his forestry studies. When Bob received his Ph.D., a local news story stated that at 84, he was the oldest LSU graduate on record! Bob owns two tree farms in New York, and he wishes that when he disposes of them that they will receive proper forest management.

Christopher A. “Chris” Dicus, 2000 Ph.D. forestry, vacationing in the South with his wife McLisa and their three children, recently visited his RNR colleagues. Chris is associate professor of wildland fire and fuels management at California Polytechnic State University. His research in the dynamics of fuel in the wildland-urban interface has placed him at the forefront of conflicts



(L-R) Professors Tom Dean, Chris Dicus, Quang Cao, Leroy Shilling and Jim Chambers gather for a photo in front of the RNR building.

between natural fire disturbance and societal well-being. A native of Hot Springs, Ark., he received his B.S. in forestry and wildlife at La. Tech University and his M.S. in forest resources at Utah State University.

Wade J. Dubea, II, '97 B.S.F., has been appointed State Forester of Louisiana effective March 11, 2008, replacing **Paul D. Frey**, '74 B.S.F., who retired at the end of 2007. Wade, a native of New Roads now living in St. Francisville, headed the Information and Education section in the Louisiana Office of Forestry before he was promoted.

John M. Dunn, '73 B.S.F., is starting his 35th year with Roy O. Martin Lumber Co. in Alexandria, La. John began his employment with Martin in May, 1973, in Glenmore La. as an assistant district forester. In December 1976, John was transferred to Pineville, La., where he became District 1 forest manager. He has been married to Jennifer Lynn for 37 years. They have one son, Christopher John, who resides in Walker with his wife Renée.

Erica Smith Ecassut, '98 B.S.F., visited the Dr. Quang Cao and Dr. Burns at the School on June 6, 2008, along with her two young children. She had married a Frenchman and had just returned from France. She has a new job teaching French at Delgado in New Orleans.

Paul D. Frey, '74 B.S.F., retired at the end of 2007 as State Forester of Louisiana. Frey was selected as the RNR School's 1990 Alumnus of the Year.

Claude H. "Grits" Gresham Jr., '49 B.S.F., '50 M.S.G.M., died Feb. 18, 2008 in his hometown of Natchitoches, La. A veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, he was famous as a writer and a television personality, author of eight books. Gresham was host of *Shooting Sports America* on ESPN and was shooting editor of *Sports Afield* magazine. His many awards include 1978 Alumnus of the Year, LSU School of Forestry & Wildlife Management and induction into the La. Sports Hall of

Fame and the LSU Alumni Association Hall of Distinction.

Susan E. Harp, '79 B.S.F. visited Drs. Burns and Chambers at the School in November 2007. She earned the M.B.A. from LSU and now works for "Force Protection," an armament company in Charleston, S.C.

Keith E. Hawkins, '86 M.S. forestry, visited the School in July 2008. He is an extension forester, living in DeRidder, La. In July 2008 it was his turn to escort the La. 4-H contingent to the national 4-H contests in West Virginia. While in the mountains, the Louisiana group planned to take a recreational white-water rafting trip down the New River.

Harry H. Helmrich, Jr., '50 B.S.F., died July 5, 2008 in Baton Rouge, at age 81. A combat veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps in WW II, he was a forestry consultant and a member of the Society of American Foresters.

PY Burns – Olympic Winner!

Dr. Paul Y. Burns, 88, who was director of the School from 1955 to 1976, retired from LSU in 1986 as professor emeritus. He has an office in the RNR building on campus, where he sees visiting alumni from time to time and advises teachers and students. His longtime hobby is tennis, and in recent years he has been competing in Senior Olympics in other sports as well. This past spring in the Greater Baton Rouge Senior Games he won the following medals in the 85- to 89-year-old class: gold in tennis singles, gold in badminton singles, gold in table tennis singles, gold in 50m and 100m track and silver in billiards.

Chung-Yun Hse, '63 M.S. forestry, is a wood scientist with the U.S. Forest Service at Pineville, La. This year he has been editing the proceedings of a wood products meeting held in China. Since the papers are to be in English, he prevailed on Dr. Paul Burns to help the authors present their reports in good English.

Amy Shilling Hood, '93 B.S.F., continues her work as a forester for International Paper Co., Shreveport. Her husband is an electrical engineer employed by I.P. at one of its plants in eastern Texas. Their second child, whose grandfather is **Dr. Leroy Shilling**, '63 B.S.F., '65 M.F., was born April 30, 2008.

Shih-Chang "Tony" Hu, '71 Ph.D. forestry, has gone back to work as a restaurateur. Several years ago he sold his Baton Rouge restaurant, "Taste of China," and moved to a country home near Clinton, La. However, the buyer was unable to keep up with his payments to Tony, so Tony and his wife Pai-Cha Hu are back in business. Dr. Burns ate there recently and highly recommends the food and service. Tony's granddaughter, Nicole "Nikki" Hu, was a winner in July of the Bocage Junior Louisiana Championship tournament. She and her partner won the title in Girls 16 Doubles.

Jeff D. Hughes Jr., '49 B.S.F., came to the School in April for undergraduate scholarship interviews, along with **C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen** (honorary alumnus). Jeff is retired and lives in Bogalusa. Buck is Executive Director of the La. Forestry Association, headquartered in Alexandria.

Charles H. Lewis Jr., '39 B.S.F., died at Conroe, Texas, in April 2008. He was a retired forester with La. Pacific Corp. and a former Executive Director of the La. Forestry Association.

John E. Martel, '73 B.S.F., retired April 4, 2008 after 34 years of service in the La. Office of Forestry. He recently wrote that he was in

charge of the Alexander State Forest at Woodworth, La. for the past 20 years. Triggering his letter was a report to Dr. Burns of a forest landowner who owned a few acres near the state forest and observed that he thought there was a lack of pine regeneration in a recent state forest harvest cut. Not surprisingly, John wrote that he had used the seed-tree regeneration method and that he noticed last winter there was plenty of pine regeneration poking through the brush. John went on to say that with more funds available, "Final harvests are now aesthetically engineered clearcuts with genetically superior seedlings planted back."

Jack T. May, '32 B.S.F., died Nov. 27, 2001 in Athens, Ga., according to a recent letter from his sister, Catherine M. Martin, who resides in the same retirement center as Dr. Paul Burns. This was the first time our School learned of his death. Jack received a master's in forestry from the University of Georgia in 1937 and a doctoral degree from Michigan State. He taught silviculture and forest soils, first at Auburn University, then at the University of Georgia.

Chellie P. McCallum Jr., '59 B.S.F., died March 19, 2008. A native of Prairieville, La., he was 74 years old. He had worked for Haynes Brothers Lumber Co. in Prairieville and was living in Jackson, Miss. when he passed away.

Robert G. "Bob" Merrifield, '58 M.F., is retired as director of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, Texas. He has had medical problems in recent years and uses a walker for extended time on his feet. Recently **Bruce Miles**, '58 B.S.F., as a volunteer docent, showed him through the new baseball exhibit at the Bush Museum in Texas. Bob and Bruce have been friends since their student days at LSU.

Bruce R. Miles, '58 B.S.F., volunteers one day a week at the George Bush Presidential Library on the Texas A. & M. campus. Now retired, he is a former director of

Got News?

E-mail Todd Shupe
tshupe@lsu.edu

or

Paul Burns
pyburns@lycos.com

the Texas Forest Service. Last year he played golf at Kinder, La. on the Coushatta Casino lands, remembering that he hitchhiked through Kinder 50 years ago on his way to LSU from Houston. When Bruce came to LSU as a transfer student in 1956, Texas did not have a forestry school.

James D. Nichols, '73 M.S.G.M., was presented the Alumnus-of-the-Year award by the School's Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Alumni Association in 2007. He is a Wildlife Biologist/Senior Scientist with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md. Dr. Nichols' major professor at LSU was Dr. Robert Chabreck.

James P. "Pat" Price, '67 B.S.F., died in January, 2008 in Baton Rouge. He had worked in the life insurance business. Pat's father, James P. "Jimmy" Price, was professor of journalism and director of the School of Journalism at LSU.

Kenneth F. "Kenny" Ribbeck, '82 B.S.F., '84 M.S. wildlife, was elected President of LSU's Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Alumni Association in 2007. **Antionette "Tony" DeBosier** '98 B.S.F., '00 M.S. forestry, was elected Vice President. Other members elected to the association's council were **Ronald K. "Kevin" Mizell**, '85 B.S.F., and **George A. Tiley**, '74 B.S.F.

Edward J. Robichaux, '68 B.S.F., has temporarily taken over John Martel's duties as manager of Alexander State Forest.

Terry Thomas Rogers, '85 B.S.F., visited the School in December 2007. She reported that she and her husband, a Lt. Colonel in the Army, and their son plan to move from Hawaii to Louisiana in about six months. They were looking for a college for their son to attend.

Mark G. Shirley, '77 B.S.F., '79 M.S. wildlife, visited the School in connection with a 4-H meeting. For the past 24 years he has worked for the LSU Extension Service in Vermilion Parish on aquaculture and coastal resources, as well as for the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service. He related a true story about his trip to Malaysia, where he made wildlife management presentations and encountered one of our School graduates, **Jasmi Bin Abdul**, '77 B.S.F., Mark's classmate at LSU. Jasmi had become a leader in the Malaysian wildlife organization.

Dean M. Simon, '81 B.S.F., has been working as a Regional Wildlife Biologist and Forester in the western part of the state for about 23 years. He received an M.S. in forest resources from the University of Georgia. Recently, Dean was honored by being chosen as 2007 Wildlife Biologist of the Year by his employer, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Samuel G. Soulé, '74 B.S.F., visited the School June 11, 2008. He works in Mansfield, La., as a forester for Roy O. Martin Lumber Co.

T. Gaillard "Gill" Simons, '81 B.S.F., has been working as a utility forester for 26 years in his native state, South Carolina. He lives in Georgetown. He wrote the School and asked about his former dendrology teacher, **Robert E. "Bob" Noble**, '57 B.S.F., '58 M.S.G.M., who retired from the LSU faculty and is living in Mississippi at 100 Donahue Lane, Natchez 39120. Dr. Noble's former dendrology students often comment, when they visit the School, that Dr. Noble taught them well—and they had to learn to identify trees or they wouldn't pass

his course! Dr. Burns had written Simons that he was told that the LSU Administration planned to tear down the Old Forestry Bldg. (new forestry building in 1956). However, recently an employee of the School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development, which now occupies this building, told Dr. Burns that she knew of no plans to tear down the Old Forestry Bldg. Nice to learn of the apparent change of heart; the lumber industry of Louisiana gave LSU a lot of beautiful solid wood paneling for this building!

Lawrence B. Stanley, '71 B.S.F., sent the School a feature story about his and his twin brother **Paul B. Stanley's**, '71 B.S.F., grandfather, F.O. Bateman, older brother of Dr. **Bryant A. Bateman**, '26 B.S.F. The story was written by Dr. **James P. Barnett**, '57 B.S.F., '63 M.F. F.O. "Red" Bateman, a native of Washington Parish, worked

for the Great Southern Lumber Company in southern Louisiana and was a pioneer in reforestation of pine lands in the South. In 2004 F.O. Bateman and Bryant Bateman (brothers) were honored by Stanley family donations to LSU, enabling Dr. William E. Kelso to be the F.O. Bateman Professor and Dr. D. Allen Rutherford to be the Bryant Bateman Professor in the School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Olin L. Stubbs, '71 B.S.F., is parish manager for East Feliciana Parish. He also serves his parish as emergency operations director. His mother, a longtime Presbyterian church friend of Dr. Burns, wrote that he was putting to work all of his forestry, Boy Scout (he was an Eagle Scout) and Presbyterian skills. Stubbs was Alumnus of the Year 1984, LSU Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Alumni Association.

Alfred D. "Al" Sullivan, '64 B.S.F., '66 M.S.G.M., according

to the Web site of the University of Minnesota, is special assistant to the president, working in the Office of Planning and Academic Affairs. Dr. Sullivan received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the LSU Forestry-Wildlife-Fisheries Alumni Association in 2002.

Jerome H. Summers Jr., '39 B.S.F., died Nov. 17, 2007 at his home in New Roads, La. He was 94 and a retired consulting forester, cattleman and farmer. He was recognized by his peers as a hardwood specialist.

Brian K. Via, '04 Ph.D. forestry, has accepted the position of assistant professor at Auburn University effective July 1, 2008. Brian recently was employed as a research scientist with Louisiana Pacific Corp. in Franklin, Tenn. In his new position he will teach courses in wood science and conduct research in wood composites, wood quality and near-infrared spectroscopy.

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